

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

AGRE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 /109 W

-----038736 142213Z /64

R 141108Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6088

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, EFIN, SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI MONTHLY SPEECH TO NATION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY "FACE THE NATION" BROADCAST DEC. 13 WAS PRIMARILY ANOTHER EARNEST JUSTIFICATION FOR ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS FACED BY AVERAGE CITIZEN. ADDRESSING ACCUSATION THAT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTING SUDAN, NIMEIRI COMPARED 1969 TRADE STATISTICS WITH STATISTICS FOR 1976 AND DREW CONCLUSION THAT HIS LEADERSHIP WAS SUCCEEDING. HE CITED "INCREASED CONSUMPTION" AS ONE CAUSE OF IMBALANCE OF TRADE BUT SAID THIS GENERATION ENTITLED TO ENJOY FRUITS OF PROGRESS ALONG WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT. WHEN FACED WITH APPARENT CHOICE OF DEVELOPMENT OR CONSUMPTION, NIMEIRI

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SAID SUDAN OPTS FOR BOTH NOW AND THUS MUST ENDURE TEMPORARY BUT EXCUSABLE PAYMENT DIFFICULTIES. HE TOUCHED ON NEW PRICE CONTROL REGULATIONS AND REPORTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS, INCLUDING FAVORABLE MENTION OF USAID SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE.

2. NIMEIRI'S DEFENSE OF SADAT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM WAS SECOND

LENGTHIEST AND MOST SPIRITED PART OF SPEECH. RECAPITULATING EGYPT'S NOBLE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP I ENTIRE HISTORY OF ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM, NIMEIRI SAID SUDANESE MARTYRS HAD FOUGHT AND DIED WITH EGYPTIANS IN EVERY WAR SINCE 1948. SUDAN HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED EGYPT AND WILL ALWAYS DO SO. SADAT IS BETTER ARAB THAN HIS CRITICS AND WILL GET NIMEIRI'S HELP IN CONSOLIDATING ARAB UNITY WHICH IS "OUR SOLE WEAPON IN OUR WAR." SOVIET UNION OPPOSES SADAT BECAUSE USSR REALLY OPPOSES ANY SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICT, SAID NIMEIRI.

3. REGARDING HORN OF AFRICA, NIMEIRI "REFERRED" NINE LEADING QUESTIONS FROM HIS AUDIENCE TO ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA HEADS OF STATE FOR REPLY. QUESTIONS WERE BIASED AGAINST SOVIET UNION, FOR EXAMPLE: ARE THERE ANY SERIOUS ATTEMPTS TO STOP SOVIET DOMINATION OF HORN BEYOND ERITREAN AND OGADEN LIBERATION STRUGGLES AND SOMALIA'S EXPULSION OF SOVIETS? DEVICE OF REFERRING QUESTIONS PERMITTED NIMEIRI TO AVOID ANSWERING ANY, SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE, ARE SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA AT WAR? HE DID NOT GIVE HIS OPINION.

4. REMAINDER OF SPEECH INCLUDED EXTENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF ELECTION PROCEDURES, WATER PROBLEMS IN NORTH KHARTOUM, EXPLANATION OF HOW ISLAMISM GUIDES NIMEIRI PERSONALLY, AND MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: NIMEIRI REMAINS RELUCTANT TO EXPRESS SAME FRANKNESS AND CONCERN OVER ECONOMIC SITUATION AS HE DOES OVER LESS CRUCIAL TOPICS. HE CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC MORALE AND DISSATISFACTION. IT IS MEASURE OF SOME PROGRESS THAT HE DISCUSSES BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM RATHER THAN BLAME CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY FOR ECONOMIC WOES OF AVERAGE CITIZEN, AS HE HAS DONE IN PAST. ELECTION REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED BY NIMEIRI SEEM TO PUT ELECTION COMPLETELY IN HANDS OF SSU BUT CONVERSATIONS AT SSU HEADQUARTERS DEC 12 WITH OFFICIALS THERE INDICATED PROBABLE SLIPPAGE BETWEEN REGULATIONS AND ACTUAL PRACTICE. NIMEIRI'S ANTI-SOVIET ATTITUDE COLORS ALL HIS FOREIGN POLICY COMMENTS AND IS CERTAINLY CONSISTENT. BERGUS

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